

Webster's II

New College Dictionary



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complex conjugate • compote

patterns of thought, feeling, and action. 3. *Informal*. An exaggerated or obsessive concern or fear <had a complex about flying> — **complex** *adj.* **com-plex** *adv.* **com-plex** *ness* *n.*

★ **syns**: COMPLEX, BYZANTINE, COMPLICATED, CONVOLUTED, DAEDAL, ELABORATE, INTRICATE, INVOLUTED, INVOLVED, KNOTTY, LABYRINTHINE *adj.* **core meaning**: difficult to understand due to intricacy <inflation—a complex economic problem> **ant**: SIMPLE

complex conjugate *n.* 1. A complex number that when multiplied by a given complex number yields a real number. 2. A complex quantity that when multiplied by a given complex quantity yields a product free of imaginary terms.

complex fraction *n.* A fraction in which the numerator or denominator or both contain fractions.

complex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* [ME *complexioun*, physical constitution < Lat. *complexio* < Lat. *combinatio* < *complexus*, p. part. of *complecti*, to entwine; — see **COMPLEX**.] 1. The natural color, texture, and appearance of the skin, esp. of the face. 2. General character, aspect, or appearance <new evidence that alters the complexion of the case> 3. The combination of the four humors of cold, heat, moistness, and dryness in specific proportions believed in medieval physiology to control the temperament and constitution of the body. — **complex-ion-al** *adj.*

complex-ioned (kəm-plēk'yon) *adj.* Of or having a specified complexion <light-complexioned>

complex number *n.* A number of the form $a + bi$, where a and b are real numbers and $i^2 = -1$; a member of the set of ordered pairs (a, b) of real numbers in which a pair equals another pair if and only if corresponding members of the two pairs are identical and in which addition and multiplication are defined by $(a, b) + (c, d) = (a + c, b + d)$ and $(a, b)(c, d) = (ac - bd, ad + bc)$, respectively.

complex plane *n.* A plane that has complex numbers as its points.

complex variable *n.* An expression of the form $x + iy$, where x and y are real variables and $i^2 = -1$.

com-pliance (kəm-pli'əns) *also* **com-pliance-ty** (-ən-sē) *n.* 1. Acquiescence to a wish, request, or demand. 2. A disposition or tendency to yield to the will of others. 3. a. Extension or displacement of a loaded structure per unit load. b. Flexibility.

com-pliant (kəm-pli'ənt) *adj.* Inclined or disposed to comply: ACQUIESCENT. — **com-pliant-ly** *adv.*

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* 1. The state of being complicated. 2. A complication.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *vt.* & *vi.* **-cat-ed**, **-cat-ing**, **-cates**. [Lat. *complicare*, *complicat.* to fold up: *com-*, together + *plicare*, to fold.] 1. To make or become complex, intricate, or bewildering. 2. To twist or become twisted together. — *adj.* (-kit). 1. Complex: intricate. 2. Biol. Folded longitudinally one or several times, as certain leaves or the wings of some insects.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *adj.* 1. Containing intricately combined or involved parts. 2. Difficult to understand or treat. — **com-plex-ion-ally** *adv.* — **com-plex-ion-ness** *n.*

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* 1. The act of complicating. 2. A confused or intricate relationship. 3. A complicating factor, condition, or element. 4. Med. A condition occurring during another disease and aggravating it.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* [ME < Ofr. < Lat. *complex*, closely connected: Lat. *com-*, together + Lat. *plicare*, to fold.] Obs. An associate or accomplice.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *adj.* Having complicity.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* 1. **-ties**. Involvement as an accomplice in a crime or wrongdoing.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* One that complies.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* [Fr. < Sp. *complimento* < *complir*, to complete < Lat. *complere*, to complete.] 1. An expression of praise, admiration, or congratulation. 2. A formal act of civility, courtesy, or respect. 3. **compliments**. Good wishes: REGARDS <Extend my compliments to the host and hostess> — **vt.** **-ment-ed**, **-ment-ing**, **-ments**. 1. To pay a compliment to. 2. To show fondness, regard, or respect for by giving a gift or performing a favor.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *adj.* 1. Expressing, using, or resembling a compliment <complimentary reviews of the concert> 2. Given free to repay a favor or as an act of courtesy <complimentary copies of the new novel> — **com-plex-ion-ally** *adv.*

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *also* **com-pline** (-plīn, -plīn') *n.* [ME < Ofr. *compli* < Med. Lat. *(hora) completa*, final hour < Lat. *completus*, p. part. of *complere*, to complete.] The last of the seven canonical hours.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *vi.* **-plied**, **-ply-ing**, **-plies**. [Ital. *compiere* < Sp. *cumplir*, to complete < Lat. *complere*.] 1. To act in accord with another's request, command, rule, or wish. 2. Obs. To be courteous or obedient.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* 1. **-pos**. [Short for COMPOSITION.] A combined substance, as mortar or plaster, formed by mixing ingredients.

com-plex-ion (kəm-plēk'yon) *n.* [Lat. *componens*, component, p. part. of *componere*, to put together: *com-*, together + *ponere*, to put.] 1. A constituent element, as of a system. 2. A part of a mechanical or electrical complex. 3. Math. One of a set of vectors having a sum equal to a given vector. 4. Chem. Any of the minimum number

of substances required to specify completely the composition of all phases of a chemical system. — **com-plex-ion** *adj.* — **com-plex-ion-ial** (kəm-pō-nēn'shəl) *adj.*

com-plex-ion (kəm-pōrt', -pōrt') *v.* **-port-ed**, **-port-ing**, **-ports**. [Ofr. *comporter*, to conduct < Lat. *comportare*, to bring together: *com-*, together + *portare*, to carry.] — *vt.* To conduct or behave (oneself) in a given way <comport oneself with tact> — *vi.* To be appropriate: HARMONIZE <actions that comport with fair play> — **com-plex-ion-ment** (kəm-pōrt'ment, -pōrt') *n.* Deportment; bearing.

com-plex-ion (kəm-pōz') *v.* **-posed**, **-pos-ing**, **-pos-es**. [ME *composen* < Ofr. *composer* < Lat. *componere*. — see **COMPOUNT**.] — *vt.* 1. To make up the constituent parts of: CONSTITUTE <a collection composed of rare antiques> 2. To create by putting together: 3. To create or produce (a literary or musical piece). 4. To calm (one's mind or body): QUIET. 5. To reconcile: settle <composed their contentions> 6. To arrange artistically. 7. To set or arrange (type or matter to be printed). — *vi.* 1. To create literary or musical pieces. 2. To set printing type.

★ **syns**: COMPOSE, CREATE, PRODUCE *v.* **core meaning**: to form by artistic effort <composed a piano sonata>

com-posed (kəm-pōz'd) *adj.* Self-possessed: tranquil. — **com-posed-ly** (-pōz'id-lē) *adv.* — **com-posed-ness** *n.*

com-posed (kəm-pōz'd) *n.* One who composes, esp. music.

composing room *n.* A room for setting type.

composing stick *n.* A tray with an adjustable end used by a compositor to hand-set type.

com-posite (kəm-pōz'it) *adj.* [Lat. *compositus*, p. part. of *componere*, to put together. — see **COMPOUNT**.] 1. Made up of distinct components: COMPOUND. 2. Math. Having factors: FACTORABLE. 3. Bot. Of, belonging to, or typical of the Compositae, a large plant family marked by flower heads having both ray flowers and disk flowers, as in the daisy, of disk flowers only, as in wormwood, or of ray flowers only, as in the dandelion. 4. **Composite**. Relating to or designating the Composite order. — *n.* 1. A compound. 2. A composite plant. — **com-posite-ly** *adv.* — **com-posite-ness** *n.*

composite nerve *n.* A nerve consisting of both sensory and motor fibers.

composite number *n.* An integer exactly divisible by at least one number other than itself or 1.

Composite order *n.* A Roman capital formed by superimposing ionic volutes on a Corinthian capital.



Composite order.

composite photograph *n.* A photograph made by combining two or more separate photographs.

com-posit-ion (kəm-pō-zh'yon) *n.* [ME *composicion* < Lat. *compositio* < *componere*, to put together. — see **COMPOUNT**.] 1. The act of putting together parts or elements to form a whole. 2. The way in which such parts are combined or related: CONSTITUTION. 3. The product of composing: COMPOUND. 2. The uniform arrangement of artistic parts. 3. a. The art or act of composing a literary or musical work. b. A work of art, literature, or music or its structure or organization. 4. A short essay, esp. one written as a school exercise. 5. Mutual agreement or compromised settlement. 6. The formation of compounds from separate words. 8. Typesetting. — **com-posit-ion-al** *adj.* — **com-posit-ion-ally** *adv.*

composition of forces *n.* The finding or determination of a vector that is the resultant of a given set of forces.

com-posit-ion (kəm-pōz'it) *n.* 1. A typesetter. — **com-posit-ion-ist** (-tōr'ē-əl, -tōr'-) *adj.*

com-posit-ion (kəm-pōz'it) *adj.* [Lat., having mastery of the mind.] Of sound mind.

com-post (kəm-pōst') *n.* [ME, *compote* < Ofr. — see **COMPOTE**.] 1. A mixture of decayed organic matter used as fertilizer. 2. A compound mixture. — *vt.* **-post-ed**, **-post-ing**, **-posts**. 1. To fertilize with compost. 2. To convert (vegetable matter) to compost.

com-po-sure (kəm-pō-zhər) *n.* (< COMPOSE.) Tranquility of mind.

com-pote (kəm-pōt') *n.* [Fr. < Ofr. *compôte* < Lat. *compositus*, put

together. — see **COMPOSITE**.] 1. Fruit cooked or stewed in a long-stemmed dish used for holding fruit, nuts, or cream. — **com-pound** (kōm-pound', kəm-, kōm-pound')

-pound-ing, **-pounds**. [ME *compounen* < Lat. *componere*.] — *vt.* 1. To combine so as to form a compound or create by combining parts <a druggist compounded a medicine> 3. To resolve (e.g., a debt) by settling on or the claim: ADJUST. 4. To compute (interest) on the accrued interest. 5. Law. To agree, for a consideration, to compound a misdemeanor. 6. To increase: as, compounded the difficulties of the search party. — *vi.* or *form*: a compound. 2. To come to terms: AGREE. — *n.* (kōm-pound', kəm-). Comprised of two or more parts. — *n.* (kōm-pound'). 1. A combination of two or more parts. 2. A word, as *loudspeaker* or *baby-sitting*, more elements having perceptible lexical meaning. 3. A macroscopically homogeneous substance consisting of two or more different elements in definite proportions with properties unlike those of its constituent elements. — **com-pound-able** *adj.* — **com-pound-er** *n.*

com-pound (kōm-pound') *n.* [Malay *kampong*, a village, esp. residences, enclosed by a fence or containing prisoners of war.]

com-pound-complex sentence (kōm-pou-nd-kəm-pleks) *n.* A sentence composed of at least two coordinate clauses and one or more dependent clauses.

compound eye *n.* The eye of most insects and arachnids, composed of many light-sensitive elements, each with its own lens and nerve, and each forming a portion of an image.

compound flower *n.* A flower head of a composite, consisting of numerous small flowers appearing as a single flower.

compound fraction *n.* A complex fraction.

compound fracture *n.* A fracture in which bone protrudes through the skin.

compound interest *n.* Interest computed on the principal as well as on the original principal.

compound leaf *n.* A leaf having two or more leaflets on a single leafstalk.

compound lens *n.* LENS 1b.

compound microscope *n.* A microscope with objective at opposite ends of an adjustable tube.

compound number *n.* A quantity, as 5 pounds 3 ounces, involving different units of measure.

compound sentence *n.* A sentence of two or more independent clauses, often joined by a conjunction or a relative pronoun. *The climb was arduous, but we finally reached the summit.*

com-pra-dor (kōm-pra-dor) *also* **com-pra-dore** (kōm-pra-dor) *n.* [Lat. *comparator*, buyer < Lat. *comparare*, to buy, to compare, to get.] A native agent once employed by a China and certain other Asian countries to serve as a commercial transactions.

com-pre-hend (kōm-pri-hend') *vt.* **-hend**, **-hends**. [ME *comprehenden* < Lat. *comprehendere*, to grasp, to grasp.] 1. To grasp mentally: to include or embrace: COMPRISE. — **com-pre-hen-sion** (kōm-pri-hen'shən) *n.* [ME *comprehensio* < *comprehendere*, to grasp.] 1. The act or fact of comprehending. 2. Knowledge acquired by comprehending. 3. CONNOTATION.

com-pre-hen-sion (kōm-pri-hen'shən) *adj.* [ME *comprehensibilis* < *comprehensio*, p. part. of *comprehendere*, to grasp.] Capable of being understood: INTELLIGIBLE. — **com-pre-hen-sion-ally** *adv.* — **com-pre-hen-sion-ally** *n.* — **com-pre-hen-sion-ally** *n.*

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